

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 4, 1989

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 89-72

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS


SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE OFFICE OF INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

This letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of the requirement to release to the State Department of General Services, Office of Insurance and Risk Management (OIRM) confidential child welfare services (CWS) information related to claims submitted for payment from the Foster Family Home and Small Family Home Insurance Fund.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 1527 et seq., the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) contracts with the OIRM to serve as the Department's official agent to administer the Fund. As the official agent for this Department, OIRM may have access to CWS case record information related to claims against the Fund and is subject to all Welfare and Institutions Code provisions regarding the confidentiality of social service documents and other social service information.

When a claim is submitted for payment from the Fund, the OIRM has the responsibility to conduct a thorough investigation of the subject incident in order to determine the nature and extent of the legal liability of the foster parents and the Fund. This investigation is necessary so that a proper decision can be made regarding payment of the pending claim. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10850 permits the OIRM as an agent of SDSS involved in the direct administration of public social services to request, receive or review confidential child welfare services and other related information from CWDs in its investigation to determine if a claim should be paid.

Questions regarding CWS should be addressed to your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623 or ATSS 485-0623. Specific questions regarding administration of the Fund may be addressed to Mr. Richard Beck, OIRM at (916) 322-8967 or ATSS 492-8967.


LOREN D. BUTER
Deputy Director,
Adult and Family Services

cc: County Welfare Directors Association
Mr. Richard Beck, OIRM